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No. XXXII.

An Account of a Case of Disease, in which one side of the Thorax was at rest, while the other performed the motions of Respiration in the usual way. By C. Wistar, M. D.—Read, December, 1814.

THERE are no actions of the human body which appear more completely associated with each other than those of the Intercostal Muscles, on the different sides of the Thorax. The simultaneous movements of the different ribs, and the regular dilatation of the Thorax, seem to depend upon this association.

The following statement will however evince, that the action of the Intercostal Muscles, of one side of the Thorax, may be completely suspended, while the muscles of the other side perform their accustomed motions most perfectly. It also affords a satisfactory explanation of this unusual occurrence.

In the course of last summer a gentleman was attended, by Dr. Monges and myself, for an Hæmoptysis which occasioned his death. During his indisposition, we observed that one side of his Thorax was neither dilated nor contracted during respiration, and that the ribs on that side were perfectly quiescent, although those of the other side performed more motion than usual, and therefore dilated that side of the Thorax to an uncommon degree. We first noticed this some days be-

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fore his death, and it continued so without any alteration during the remainder of his life. He made no complaints of pain or uneasy sensations, on the side which was without motion, but said that he had sensations on the other side, which he believed were produced by the passage of blood from the ruptured blood vessels. Some years before, he had suffered with Hæmoptysis, and a consequent cough and expectoration; but he recovered from this so much, that he was strong and rather corpulent at the time of his last attack. Upon dissection, the cause of this extraordinary mode of respiration was very obvious. That cavity of the Thorax which was without motion, was filled with Pus. The volume of the lung of that side was greatly diminished, and the cellular structure of the organ entirely done away.